

Remarks

Claims 2-5, 7, and 9-19 are currently pending in the subject application.

Claims 1, 6, 8 and 20 have been cancelled. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of Claims 12-19 in the Office Action.

In addition, applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview with applicant's undersigned representative to discuss the rejections set forth in the Office Action. The discussions conducted during the telephone interview have been taken into consideration in the present response.

Based on the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested for all pending, rejected claims of the subject application.

Objected to Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 7 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

To expedite prosecution of the subject application, Claims 7 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner set forth a rejection under this section because, "Claim 11, line 2, 'said cable' is recited positively, whereas the independent Claim 1 recites 'for receiving a cable' as an intended use." (See Office Action, page 2).

Applicant respectfully submits that there is no need under this section to amend the language of Claim 11 in view of the “intended use” issue raised by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the interaction of the “cable” with respect to other elements of the claims is evident upon a plain reading of the claim language. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of the subject application, Claim 11 has been amended in an attempt to clarify the status of the “cable” in the claim language.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected under this section in view of Leen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,585,400).

Claims 1, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Currently amended Claims 2-5 depend from Claim 7, which has been rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that Claim 7 is allowable for the reasons stated above, and that Claims 2-5 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 7.

Claim 20 was rejected under this section in view of Hollenbach et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,510,970).

Claim 20 has been cancelled in the present response.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

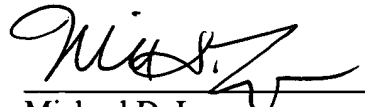
Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under this section in view of the Examiner’s proposed combination of Leen and Schmidt et al. (DE 3321426).

Claims 10 and 11 depend either directly or indirectly from currently amended Claim 7, an allowable claim. Therefore, applicant submits that Claims 10 and 11 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 7.

Summary

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to discuss any outstanding issues with the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,


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